

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A reading method for reading a magneto-optical recording medium, comprising a storage layer and a readout layer, wherein an expanded domain leading to a readout pulse is generated in said readout layer by copying a mark region from said storage layer to said readout layer upon heating by a radiation power and with the aid of an external magnetic field, said method comprising the steps of:

a) controlling the size of a spatial copy window of said copying process by varying a predetermined reading parameter in response to a control information derived from said readout pulse;

b) applying a predetermined additional pattern of change to said predetermined parameter; and

c) obtaining said control information from a deviation of a clock signal,

wherein said clock signal is recovered from said readout pulse, from a wobbled groove, or from embossed marks provided on said recording medium, or from any combination thereof,

and wherein said control information is obtained from a deviation of a maximum value of a phase error of said recovered clock signal from a predetermined set value.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said predetermined parameter corresponds to the value of said radiation power.
4. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said predetermined parameter corresponds to the strength of said external magnetic field.
5. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said predetermined parameter corresponds to a combination of the value of said radiation power and the strength of said external magnetic field.
6. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein one of said values of said radiation power and said strength of said external magnetic field is used for coarse control and the other one is used for fine control.
7. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein said strength of said external magnetic field is varied by varying a coil current of a magnetic head.
8. (Cancelled).

9. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said predetermined additional change pattern is a periodic pattern of a predetermined frequency.

10. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein said periodic pattern is a sinusoidal pattern.

11. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein said periodic pattern is a square-wave pattern.

12. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the frequency of said square-wave pattern corresponds to half of a bit frequency or an integer multiple of half of the bit frequency.

13. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said clock signal is recovered by using a phase-locked loop function.

14. (Currently Amended) A reading apparatus for reading from a magneto-optical recording medium comprising a storage layer and a readout layer, wherein an expanded domain leading to a readout pulse is generated in said readout layer by copying a mark region
5 from said storage layer to said readout layer upon heating by a radiation power and the aid of an external magnetic field, said apparatus comprising:

a) control means for controlling the size of a spatial copy window of said copying process by varying a predetermined reading parameter in response to a control information derived from said readout pulse;

b) change means for applying a predetermined additional pattern of change to said predetermined parameter; and

c) clock recovery means for obtaining said information from a deviation of a clock signal,

wherein said clock recovery means recovers said clock signal from said readout pulse, from a wobbled groove, or from embossed marks provided on said recording medium, or from any combination thereof,

and wherein said clock recovery means obtains said control information from a deviation of a maximum value of a phase error of said recovered clock signal from a predetermined set value.

15. (Cancelled).

16. (Previously Presented) The reading apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein said control means varies said radiation power.

17. (Previously Presented) The reading apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein said control means varies said external magnetic field.

18. (Previously Presented) The reading apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein said control means varies the value of said radiation power and the strength of said external magnetic field in combination.

19. (Previously Presented) The reading apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein said control means uses one of said values of said radiation power and said strength of said external magnetic field for coarse control and the other one for fine control.

20. (Previously Presented) The reading apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein said reading apparatus also comprises field control means for sustaining said external magnetic field until said mark region is copied, and for reversing said external
5 magnetic field in response to detection of said readout pulse.

21. (Cancelled).

22. (Previously Presented) The reading apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein said clock recovery means comprises a phase-locked loop circuit.

23. (Previously Presented) The reading apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein said change means uses a periodic pattern of a predetermined frequency as said predetermined additional change pattern.

24. (Previously Presented) The reading apparatus as claimed in claim 23, wherein said periodic pattern is a sinusoidal pattern.

25. (Previously Presented) The reading apparatus as claimed in claim 23, wherein said periodic pattern is a square-wave pattern.

26. (Previously Presented) The reading apparatus as claimed in claim 25, wherein the frequency of said square-wave pattern corresponds to half of a bit frequency or an integer multiple of half of the bit frequency.

27. (Previously Presented) The reading apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein said reading apparatus is a disk player for MAMMOS disks.